U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management White River Field Office 220 E Market St Meeker, CO 81641

# Section 390 Categorical Exclusion for Oil and Gas Development

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-110-2011-0165-CX(390)

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC-50114

PROJECT NAME: EnCana Oil and Gas - 1 new APD (HH 9102-14 G15 2104) on existing well

pad G15 2104

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T2S, R104W, NENE Section 15

APPLICANT: EnCana Oil and Gas

BACKGROUND: The HH 9126 well (current status-gas shut in) is the only well on the well pad (pad) where the HH 9102-14 G15 2104 is proposed. The pad was not named previous to the submittal of the proposed well and has now been named the G15 2104. The HH 9126 well was approved in CO-WRFO-00-105-EA on 4/24/2000 and the G15 2104 pad was approved at 325 feet long by 170 feet wide working surface and is currently in interim reclamation. An onsite inspection for the new proposed well was not conducted as there was no proposed pad expansion.

<u>DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:</u> EnCana Oil and Gas (EnCana) proposes to drill a new well on existing pad G15 2104 (see Figures 1 and 2), disturb the area put into interim reclamation on that pad, and use the remainder of the pad surface not put in interim reclamation. The pad size (working surface) will be 311 feet long by 154 feet wide with a disturbed area of 2.7 acres. Following interim reclamation, EnCana will reclaim the pad back to 1.1 acres. No new pipeline is required and no road upgrades will be required.

Acreage disturbance of proposed action HH 9102-14 G15 2104 well

	Dimensions (length x	Surface disturbance prior to	Surface disturbance following
	width) feet	interim reclamation (acres)	interim reclamation (acres)
Well pad	<b>311 x 154</b> (working area)	2.7 (total well pad	1.1
		construction disturbance)	
Total		2.7	1.1

<u>Decision to be Made:</u> The BLM will decide whether or not to approve the one additional well, and if so under what conditions.

<u>PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW</u>: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-5

<u>Decision Language</u>: Make federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for other resource values.

<u>CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW</u>: The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58) prescribed five categorical exclusions (CX) for activities whose purpose is for the exploration of oil or gas.

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act, #1: "Individual surface disturbances of less than five acres so long as the total surface disturbance on the lease is not greater than 150 acres and site-specific analysis in a document prepared pursuant to the NEPA has been previously completed."

#### Documentation

The BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1) provides specific instructions for using this CX.

- 1) Is surface disturbance associated with the Proposed Action less than five acres? Surface disturbance associated with the Proposed Action is less than five acres. The proposal is to use the area originally approved in CO-WRFO-00-105-EA on 4/24/2000 disturbing the area put into interim reclamation. Approximately 2.7 acres will be re-disturbed.
- 2) Is there less than 150 acres of surface disturbance, including the Proposed Action, on the entire leasehold? Surface disturbance on the entire leasehold (COC-50114) based on review of 2009 aerial photo and review of all new disturbances (proposed and existing) on the entire leasehold is approximately 70 acres or less.
- 3) Is the Proposed Action within the boundaries of an area included in a site-specific NEPA document? (The NEPA document must have analyzed the exploration and/or development of oil and gas (not just leasing) and the action/activity being considered must be within the boundaries of the area analyzed in the environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). The NEPA document need not have addressed the specific permit or application being considered.) CO-WRFO-00-105-EA analyzed seven gas wells including the HH 9126 well (on pad G15 2104) and pipeline. The one proposed well is on an existing pad within the area analyzed in the EA with no pad expansion.

#### INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 8/2/2011. A list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Name Title Resource		Date
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	8/12/2011
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	8/8/2011
Zoe Miller	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	8/4/2011

# **REMARKS**:

Cultural Resources: The original Coastal Oil and Gas Corporation HH 9126 well on pad G15 2104 was inventoried to a size of ten acres at the Class III (100 percent pedestrian) level (Kinnear-Ferris and Wolfe 2000 compliance dated 1/31/2000, Reed 1987 compliance dated 7/11/1987) with no cultural resources located along the proposed access route or the pad location. There were no cultural resources recorded during the inventories. Provided the new well drilling disturbance is strictly confined to the previously recorded inventory plot and the existing pad disturbance area there would be no new impacts to cultural resources and no further irreversible or irretrievable loss to the regional archaeological database.

*Native American Religious Concerns:* No Native American Religious Concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.

Paleontological Resources: The one proposed additional well on the G15 2104 pad is located in what is generally mapped as the Douglas Creek Member of the Green River Formation (Tweto 1979) which the WRFO has classified as a PFYC 4 formation meaning it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossil resources (c.f. Armstrong and Wolny 1989). Should it become necessary to excavate into the underlying sedimentary rock formation to construct the cellars for drilling the new well there is a potential to impact scientifically noteworthy fossil resources.

*Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species:* There are no wildlife-related issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

Threatened and Endangered Plant Species: There are no special status plant species concerns associated with the Proposed Action since the area has been previously disturbed.

#### **REFERENCES CITED:**

Armstrong, Harley J., and David G. Wolny

1989 Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis. Museum of Western Colorado.

Kinnear-Ferris, Sharyl, and Michael S. Wolf

Cultural Resource Inventory of Coastal Oil and Gas Corporation's Hells Hole Federal #9124, #9125, and #9126 Well Locations Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Montgomery Archaeological Consultants, Moab, Utah. (00-121-10: SHPO #RB.LM.R411)

#### Reed, Alan D.

1987 Cultural Resource Inventory of Three Planned Energy Development Projects in Uintah County, Utah and Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Nickens and Associates, Montrose, Colorado. (87-05-02:: SHPO # RB.LM.R17)

# Tweto, Ogden

1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

#### MITIGATION:

- 1) The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
- 2) If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The operator will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The operator, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
- 3) The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
- 4) If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the operator or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource

- within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.
- 5) If it should become necessary to excavate into undisturbed portions of the underlying sedimentary rock formation a paleontological monitor shall be present before any such excavations begin and shall remain until all excavations have been completed and back filling of the excavations has begun.
- 6) Per 9/1/2011 review of Sundry Notice dated 8/3/2011 and per conversation with Heather Mitchell of EnCana Oil and Gas, Sheet 6 of 11 of the Sundry Notice needs to be updated. The excess spoils stockpile east of the RV (revegetation) area will not remain following interim reclamation and this area of the pad will be interim reclaimed. EnCana will submit an updated Sheet 6 of 11 by Sundry Notice as soon as it has been updated.

## Pre-Construction Activities and Notifications

7) The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified via email or phone <u>24 hours prior</u> to beginning all construction-related activities associated with this project that result in disturbance of surface soils. Construction-related activities may include, but are not limited to, pad and road construction, clearing pipeline corridors, trenching, etc. Notification of all construction-related activities, regardless of size, that result in disturbance of surface soils as a result of this project is required.

# Reclamation and Weed Management

8) Seed all disturbed areas with the following seed mixture:

Seed Mix	Cultivar	Species	Scientific Name	*Application Rate (lbs PLS/acre)
8	Viva Florets	Galleta Grass	Pleuraphis jamesii	3
	Rimrock	Indian Ricegrass	Achnatherum hymenoides	3
	Toe Jam Creek	Bottlebrush Squirreltail	Elymus elymoides	2.5
	Rosanna	Western Wheatgrass	Pascopyrum smithii	4
		Scarlet Globemallow	Sphaeralcea coccinea	0.25
		Annual Sunflower	Helianthus annus	2.5
		Mat Saltbush	Atriplex corrugata	2

<sup>\*</sup>Application rate is based on drill seed method. Should seed be broadcast, apply at two times the rate.

9) All seed tags will be submitted to the *designated Natural Resource Specialist* within 14 calendar days from the time the seeding activities have ended via Sundry Notice (SN). The sundry will include the purpose of the seeding activity (i.e., seeding well pad cut and fill slopes, seeding pipeline corridor, etc.). In addition, the SN will include the well or well pad number associated with the seeding activity, if applicable, the name and phone number of the contractor that performed the work, the method used to apply the seed (e.g., broadcast, hydro-seeded, drilled), whether the seeding activity represents interim or final reclamation,

- an estimate of the total acres seeded, an attached map that clearly identifies all disturbed areas that were seeded, and the date the seed was applied.
- 10) Monitoring for, and control/eradication of noxious and invasive weeds associated with these pads, access roads, and pipelines should occur throughout the life of the projects including through final reclamation and abandonment. Pesticide Application Reports must be submitted to the BLM where weed treatments extend onto BLM lands.

# **Post-Construction Notifications**

- 11) In an attempt to track interim and final reclamation of federal actions related to the development of federal mineral resources, the operator shall provide the *designated Natural Resource Specialist* with geospatial data in a format compatible with the WRFO's ESRI ArcGIS Geographic Information System (GIS) (e.g., GIS point and polygon features). These data will be used to accurately locate and identify all geographic as-built (i.e., constructed and design implemented) features associated with this project and included in the Application for Permit to Drill (APD) or Sundry Notice (SN), as appropriate.
  - These data shall be <u>submitted within 60 days of construction completion</u>. If the
    operator is unable to submit the required information within the specified time period,
    the operator shall notify the designated Natural Resource Specialist via email or by
    phone, and provide justification supporting an extension of the required data
    submission time period.
  - GIS polygon features may include, but are not limited to: full well pad footprints (including all stormwater and design features), constructed access roads/widths, existing roads that were upgraded/widths, and pipeline corridors.
  - Acceptable data formats are: (1) corrected global positioning system (GPS) files with sub-meter accuracy or better; (2) ESRI shapefiles or geodatabases; or (3) AutoCAD .dwg or .dxf files. If possible, both (2) and (3) should be submitted for each as-built feature. Geospatial data must be submitted in UTM Zone 13N, NAD 83, in units of meters. Data may be submitted as: (1) an email attachment or (2) on a standard compact disk (CD) in compressed (WinZip only) or uncompressed format. All data shall include metadata, for each submitted layer, that conforms to the *Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata* from the Federal Geographic Data Committee standards. Questions shall be directed to WRFO BLM GIS staff at (970) 878-3800.

If the operator is unable to send the data electronically, the operator shall submit the data on compact disk(s) to:

BLM, White River Field Office Attn: Natural Resource Specialist 220 East Market Street Meeker, Colorado 81641

Internal and external review of the reporting process and the adequacy of the associated information to meet established goals will be conducted on an on-going basis. New information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the request, as appropriate. Subsequent permit application processing may be dependent upon successful execution of this request, as stated above.

12) If for any reason the location or orientation of the geographic feature associated with the

Proposed Action changes, the operator shall submit updated GIS "As-Built" data to designated Natural Resource Specialist within <u>7 calendar days</u> of the change. This information shall be submitted via Sundry Notice.

## Pre & Post-Drilling Notifications

- 13) The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified via email or phone <u>24 hours prior</u> to well spud (breaking ground for drilling surface casing).
- 14) The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified via email or phone <u>24 hours</u> <u>prior</u> to commencing completion operations.

## Information Sharing & Reclamation Monitoring

15) The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted electronically via email <u>and</u> as a hard-copy to the WRFO Reclamation Coordinator, Brett Smithers (<u>brett\_smithers@blm.gov</u>). Please submit the hardcopy to:

BLM, White River Field Office 220 East Market Street Meeker, Colorado 81641 Attn: Brett Smithers

The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted annually for all actions that require disturbance of surface soils on BLM-administered lands as a result of the Proposed Action. Actions may include, but are not limited to, well pad and road construction, construction of ancillary facilities, or power line and pipeline construction. The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup> of each calendar year, and will include the well number, API number, legal description, UTM coordinates (using the NAD83 datum, Zone 13N coordinate system), project description (e.g., well pad, pipeline, etc.), reclamation status (e.g., Phase I Interim, Phase II Interim, or Final), whether the well pad or pipeline has been revegetated and/or re-contoured, percent of the disturbed area that has been reclaimed, method used to estimate percent area reclaimed (e.g., qualitative or quantitative), technique used to estimate percent area reclaimed (e.g., ocular, line-intercept, etc.), date seeded, photos of the reclaimed site, estimate of acres seeded, seeding method (e.g., broadcast, drilled, hydroseeded, etc.), and contact information for the person(s) responsible for developing the report. The report will be accompanied with maps and GIS data showing each discrete point (i.e., well pad), polygon (i.e., area where seed was applied for Phase I and/or Phase II interim reclamation or area reclaimed for final reclamation), or polyline (i.e., pipeline) feature that was included in the report. Geospatial data shall be submitted: for each completed activity electronically to the designated BLM staff person responsible for the initial request and in accordance with WRFO geospatial data submittal standards (available from WRFO GIS Staff, or on the WRFO website). Internal and external review of the WRFO Reclamation Status Report, and the process used to acquire the necessary information will be conducted annually, and new information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the report.

16) The operator will be required to meet with the WRFO reclamation staff in <u>March or April</u> of each calendar year and present a comprehensive work plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide information pertaining to reclamation activities that are expected to occur during the current growing season. Operators shall also provide a map that shows all reclamation sites

where some form of reclamation activity is expected to occur during the current growing season.

17) Applicable mitigation carried forward from CO-WRFO-00-105-EA is attached as Appendix A.

MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring of drilling, production, and post-production activities will be conducted by White River Field Office staff during construction of well pads, access roads, and pipelines. Specific mitigation developed in the associated Categorical Exclusion and the lease terms and conditions will be followed. The Operator will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

NAME OF PREPARER: Jay Johnson

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

#### COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act.

Field Manager

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED: 9/16/2011

ATTACHMENTS:

Figure 1 – Map of HH 9102-14 G15 2104 well location – scale 1:100,000

Figure 2 – Map of HH 9102-14 G15 2104 well location – scale 1" = 2000'

Appendix A – Applicable Mitigation Brought Forward From CO-WRFO-00-105-EA

Figure 1 – Map of HH 9102-14 G15 2104 well location – scale 1:100,000

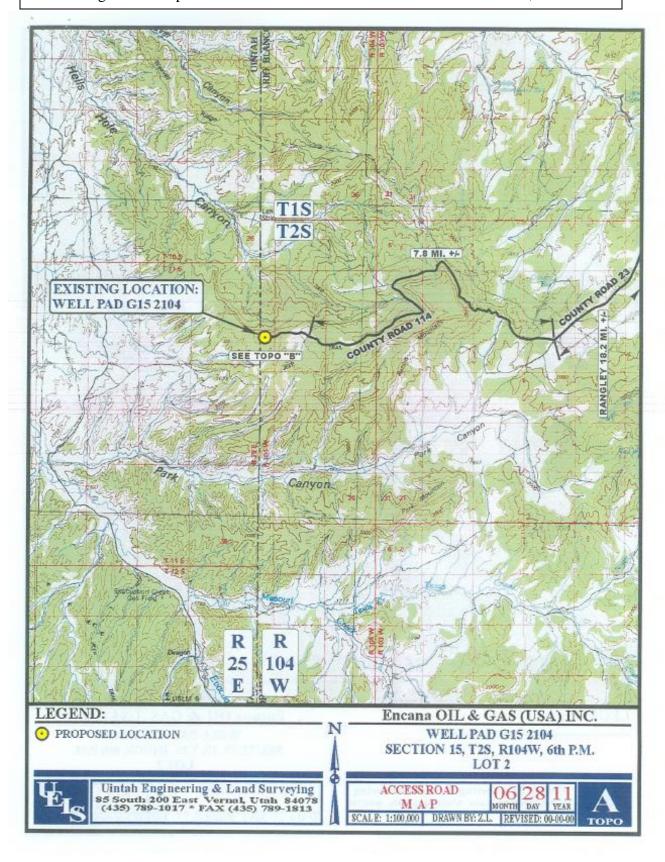
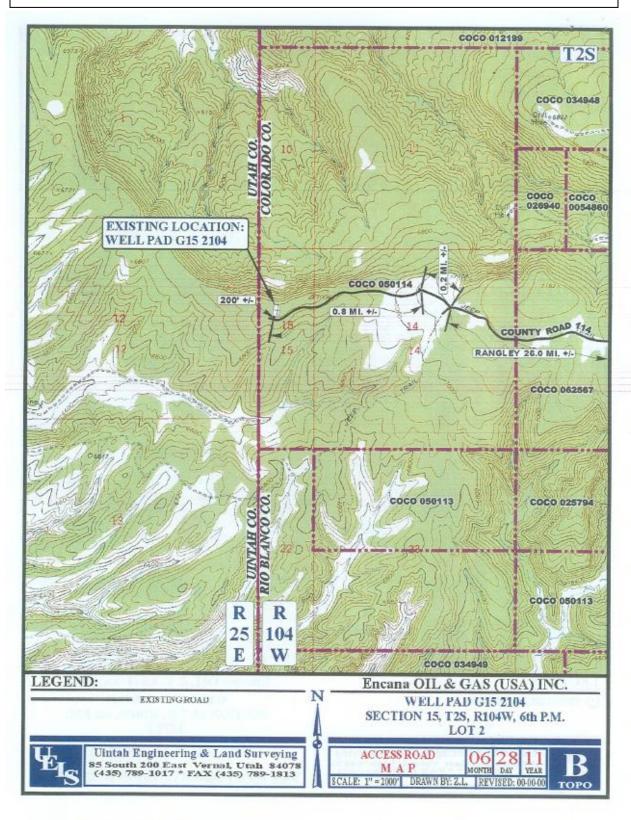


Figure 2 – Map of HH 9102-14 G15 2104 well location – scale 1" = 2000'



# Appendix A – Applicable Mitigation Brought Forward From CO-WRFO-00-105-EA

- 1) All permanent (onsite for six [6] months or longer) structures, facilities and equipment placed onsite shall be painted Munsell Soil Color Chart juniper green or equivalent within six months of installation.
- 2) If a tank battery is constructed on this location, the battery shall be surrounded by a containment structure (dike) of sufficient volume to contain, at a minimum, 110% of the largest tank within the facility/battery.
- 3) No load lines shall extend outside the tank dike.
- 4) All produced fluids including dehydrator vent/condensate line effluent must be contained. All production pits must be fenced with woven wire.
- 5) The operator shall spray the road and project area with water or an approved dust retardant, as directed by the AO, if it is determined that such action is necessary to control dust from wind, vehicles, and equipment.
- 6) Annual or noxious weeds shall be controlled on all disturbed areas as directed by the White River Resource Area Manager. Method of control shall be by an approved mechanical method or an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered herbicide. All herbicide application proposals must be under direct field supervision of an EPA certified pesticide applicator.
- 7) All open-vent exhaust stacks associated with heater-treater, separator and dehydrator units shall be installed to prevent birds and bats from entering the exhaust stacks and to the extent practical to discourage perching and nesting.
- 8) Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management White River Field Office 220 E Market St Meeker, CO 81641

# **DECISION**

**PROJECT NAME:** EnCana Oil and Gas - 1 new APD (HH 9102-14 G15 2104) on existing well pad G15 2104

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-2011-0165-CX(390)

#### **DECISION**

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-2011-0165-CX(390), authorizing the disturbance of interim reclaimed areas of the G15 2104 pad and the drilling and operation of the HH 9101-14 G15 2104 well on the G15 2104 pad.

# **Mitigation Measures:**

- 1) The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
- 2) If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The operator will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The operator, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
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- within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.
- 5) If it should become necessary to excavate into undisturbed portions of the underlying sedimentary rock formation a paleontological monitor shall be present before any such excavations begin and shall remain until all excavations have been completed and back filling of the excavations has begun.
- 6) Per 9/1/2011 review of Sundry Notice dated 8/3/2011 and per conversation with Heather Mitchell of EnCana Oil and Gas, Sheet 6 of 11 of the Sundry Notice needs to be updated. The excess spoils stockpile east of the RV (revegetation) area will not remain following interim reclamation and this area of the pad will be interim reclaimed. EnCana will submit an updated Sheet 6 of 11 by Sundry Notice as soon as it has been updated.

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# Reclamation and Weed Management

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		Scarlet Globemallow	Sphaeralcea coccinea	0.25
		Annual Sunflower	Helianthus annus	2.5
		Mat Saltbush	Atriplex corrugata	2

<sup>\*</sup>Application rate is based on drill seed method. Should seed be broadcast, apply at two times the rate.

- 9) All seed tags will be submitted to the *designated Natural Resource Specialist* within 14 calendar days from the time the seeding activities have ended via Sundry Notice (SN). The sundry will include the purpose of the seeding activity (i.e., seeding well pad cut and fill slopes, seeding pipeline corridor, etc.). In addition, the SN will include the well or well pad number associated with the seeding activity, if applicable, the name and phone number of the contractor that performed the work, the method used to apply the seed (e.g., broadcast, hydro-seeded, drilled), whether the seeding activity represents interim or final reclamation, an estimate of the total acres seeded, an attached map that clearly identifies all disturbed areas that were seeded, and the date the seed was applied.
- 10) Monitoring for, and control/eradication of noxious and invasive weeds associated with these

pads, access roads, and pipelines should occur throughout the life of the projects including through final reclamation and abandonment. Pesticide Application Reports must be submitted to the BLM where weed treatments extend onto BLM lands.

## **Post-Construction Notifications**

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  - These data shall be <u>submitted within 60 days of construction completion</u>. If the operator is unable to submit the required information within the specified time period, the operator shall notify the designated Natural Resource Specialist via email or by phone, and provide justification supporting an extension of the required data submission time period.
  - GIS polygon features may include, but are not limited to: full well pad footprints (including all stormwater and design features), constructed access roads/widths, existing roads that were upgraded/widths, and pipeline corridors.
  - Acceptable data formats are: (1) corrected global positioning system (GPS) files with sub-meter accuracy or better; (2) ESRI shapefiles or geodatabases; or (3) AutoCAD .dwg or .dxf files. If possible, both (2) and (3) should be submitted for each as-built feature. Geospatial data must be submitted in UTM Zone 13N, NAD 83, in units of meters. Data may be submitted as: (1) an email attachment or (2) on a standard compact disk (CD) in compressed (WinZip only) or uncompressed format. All data shall include metadata, for each submitted layer, that conforms to the *Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata* from the Federal Geographic Data Committee standards. Questions shall be directed to WRFO BLM GIS staff at (970) 878-3800.

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12) If for any reason the location or orientation of the geographic feature associated with the Proposed Action changes, the operator shall submit updated GIS "As-Built" data to designated Natural Resource Specialist within 7 calendar days of the change. This information shall be submitted via Sundry Notice.

# Pre & Post-Drilling Notifications

- 13) The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified via email or phone <u>24 hours</u> prior to well spud (breaking ground for drilling surface casing).
- 14) The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified via email or phone <u>24 hours</u> prior to commencing completion operations.

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15) The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted electronically via email <u>and</u> as a hard-copy to the WRFO Reclamation Coordinator, Brett Smithers (<u>brett\_smithers@blm.gov</u>). Please submit the hardcopy to:

BLM, White River Field Office 220 East Market Street Meeker, Colorado 81641 Attn: Brett Smithers

The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted annually for all actions that require disturbance of surface soils on BLM-administered lands as a result of the Proposed Action. Actions may include, but are not limited to, well pad and road construction, construction of ancillary facilities, or power line and pipeline construction. The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup> of each calendar year, and will include the well number, API number, legal description, UTM coordinates (using the NAD83 datum, Zone 13N coordinate system), project description (e.g., well pad, pipeline, etc.), reclamation status (e.g., Phase I Interim, Phase II Interim, or Final), whether the well pad or pipeline has been revegetated and/or re-contoured, percent of the disturbed area that has been reclaimed, method used to estimate percent area reclaimed (e.g., qualitative or quantitative), technique used to estimate percent area reclaimed (e.g., ocular, line-intercept, etc.), date seeded, photos of the reclaimed site, estimate of acres seeded, seeding method (e.g., broadcast, drilled, hydroseeded, etc.), and contact information for the person(s) responsible for developing the report. The report will be accompanied with maps and GIS data showing each discrete point (i.e., well pad), polygon (i.e., area where seed was applied for Phase I and/or Phase II interim reclamation or area reclaimed for final reclamation), or polyline (i.e., pipeline) feature that was included in the report. Geospatial data shall be submitted: for each completed activity electronically to the designated BLM staff person responsible for the initial request and in accordance with WRFO geospatial data submittal standards (available from WRFO GIS Staff, or on the WRFO website). Internal and external review of the WRFO Reclamation Status Report, and the process used to acquire the necessary information will be conducted annually, and new information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the report.

- 16) The operator will be required to meet with the WRFO reclamation staff in March or April of each calendar year and present a comprehensive work plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide information pertaining to reclamation activities that are expected to occur during the current growing season. Operators shall also provide a map that shows all reclamation sites where some form of reclamation activity is expected to occur during the current growing season.
- 17) Applicable mitigation carried forward from CO-WRFO-00-105-EA is attached as Appendix A

# COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Internal scoping was initiated when the project was presented to the White River Field Office (WRFO) interdisciplinary team on 8/2/2011. External scoping was conducted by posting this project on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on 8/5/2011.

# **RATIONALE**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act. Drilling additional wells from an existing pad allows for extraction of the mineral resource while minimizing surface disturbance.

# **ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

# **State Director Review**

Under regulations addressed in 43 CFR 3165.3(b), any adversely affected party that contests a decision of the Authorized Officer may request an administrative review, before the State Director, either with or without oral presentation. Such request, including all supporting documentation, shall be filed in writing with the BLM Colorado State Office at 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215 within 20 business days of the date such decision was received or considered to have been received. Upon request and showing of good cause, an extension may be granted by the State Director. Such review shall include all factors or circumstances relevant to the particular case.

#### Appeal

Any party who is adversely affected by the decision of the State Director after State Director review, under 43 CFR 3165.3(b), of a decision may appeal that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals pursuant to the regulations set out in 43 CRF Part 4.

Att Field Manager

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED: 9/16/2011